



## Dymchurch Parish Council Meeting MINUTES

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held at 7 pm on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025, at the Parish Council Offices, Orgarswick Avenue, Dymchurch.**

### MINUTES

#### Present-

<b>Cllr. C. McCready (Chair)</b>	<b>Cllr. L. Finch (Vice Chair)</b>	<b>Cllr. C. Young</b>
<b>Cllr. D. Young</b>	<b>Cllr. V. McCready</b>	<b>Cllr. A. Pegler</b>
<b>Cllr. M. Wright</b>	<b>Cllr. C. Cooper</b>	

#### Also in attendance

**Mr J Lawrence -Parish Clerk, Mr A Lawson – Projects and Finance Officer**

**District Council Leader Cllr. Jim Martin and District Cllr. Tony Hills**

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Members are reminded to tender apologies for absence directly to the Clerk if they are unable to attend. Members will confirm acceptance of the reasons for absence.

**Cllr. A. Weatherhead**

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**a. To disclose any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.**  
**b. To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda – any councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for those relevant items.**

No declarations made.

#### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 6th October 2025, to be agreed upon by the members present.**

District Council Leader Cllr Jim Martin provided an update on the proposed Local Government Reorganisation- for full details and timeline, please visit

<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/democracy/devolution-local-government-reorganisation>.

#### 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**Members may propose to adjourn the meeting to enable Public**

**Participation.**

**Standing Orders permit members of the public to speak at Council meetings. The allocated time for Public Participation is 15 minutes, with each individual allowed up to 3 minutes at the chair's discretion.**

**At the conclusion of the Public Participation segment, the Council meeting will resume.**

No members of the public present

**5. TO DEAL WITH MATTERS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE IN CIRCULATION**

No correspondence of note

**6. CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair will provide an update on any additional Council activities and meetings attended.

- Attended the Ministry of Sewers at the Customs House, Folkestone- More details about this project can be seen here [Share your Sewage Story: Meet the Minister of Sewers - Creative Folkestone](#)
- Informed members of the invitation to the Remembrance Day Parade at New Romney – Members were unable to attend due to commitments in Dymchurch-  
The clerk was asked to reply on behalf of Dymchurch Parish Council.

**7. Reports from external bodies**

- i. Kent County Council- Cllr Osborne  
No update this month
- ii. District Council- Cllrs Tony Cooper and Tony Hills  
Tony Hills read his report, shown in Appendix 1.
- iii. KCC Warden- Carol Coveney  
No report this month
- iv. Kent Police- PC's Putland and Hockless  
PC Putland provided a written report covering local issues —Hare Coursing concerns and recent drug offences in adjacent parishes.  
However, he reported that Dymchurch is a low-crime area at the moment, with very few problems.

**8. CLERK'S REPORT/UPDATE**

Ref	Action	Responsible Person	Notes / Progress
A1	Contact District Council Enforcement Officers regarding dog fouling on the sea wall between the Redoubt Estate and Martello Tower and request additional signage.	Clerk	Completed

A2	Attend and report back from the next meeting with the New Beach Manager regarding flooding and drainage issues (scheduled for early November).	Clerk / Cllr Finch	Follow-up meeting planned; update expected next month.
A3	Write to householders using the Village Hall service road to seek cooperation in keeping the road clear, and the gate closed; remind Paydens staff not to park on the service road; arrange repairs to the second gate.	Clerk	Ongoing
A4	Conduct a full audit of cemetery grave spaces and review burial fees for alignment with comparable burial grounds.	Clerk	Database now fully updated- Physical Check to be carried out, which will allow new maps to be prepared.
A5	Apply for the KCC Bus Shelter Grant for the replacement of the Wrightsfield Avenue shelter.	Clerk	Submitted, awaiting decision on grant from KCC
A6	Update and publish new Village Hall car park charges effective from Easter/April 1st, 2026.	Clerk	Completed - New signs received - Software updates in hand.
A7	Ensure disabled parking bay lining is completed within the Parish Council car park using CIL funds.	Clerk	Lining quote obtained: £750. This will include hatching at the entrance to the recreation ground to encourage pedestrian access.
A8	Arrange payment for tree works in the recreation ground (removal of dead/diseased tree).	Clerk	Contractor has been contacted; however, Item 12 is now relevant for approval of additional emergency work.
A9	Obtain a quote for the demolition of the Pavilion building (Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground Charity).	Clerk	Ongoing — However, the Chair may have further information on this matter.
A10	Ask Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground whether members of the public may view	Clerk/ Cllr.C.McCreedy	The minutes are now added

	charity meeting minutes.		to the website.
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## 9. MEMBER REPORTS

Members will update the Committee regarding any meetings or events they attend on behalf of the Parish Council that are not included in the agenda.

Cllr. V.McCreedy

- Attended AGM for Twinning association
- E-mail sent to KCC to ascertain what traffic survey is being carried out along Hythe Road, Dymchurch, to see if this data can be used to assist Dymchurch in any traffic safety matters.
- Attended the Ministry of Sewers- See website address above at item 6

Cllr. D. Young

- Raised concerns about what appears to be a separate Facebook page from The Friends of Dymchurch Recreation Ground Charity, which appears to be being used for political messages.

Cllr C. McCreedy reported that they had been unable to identify who created the page and that it had been reported to Facebook for removal.

## 10. NEW ROMNEY DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE

**Members will consider the proposal for a diagnostic centre at New Romney raised by Cllr. John Rivers from New Romney.**

It was unanimously agreed that Dymchurch Parish Council supports the proposal for a diagnostic centre for the Romney Marsh, based at New Romney.

The Clerk was instructed to respond to New Romney and relevant persons as requested in the briefing pack.

## 11. RECREATION GROUND ENTRANCE

**Members will consider options for safe pedestrian access to the recreation ground.**

Various options were discussed. It was proposed by Cllr. V. McCreedy and seconded by Cllr. C. Cooper to obtain quotes to install a pedestrian footpath on the right-hand side of the entrance to the Recreation Ground, leading to the pedestrian gate. The option would include a raised kerb, hatchings, and signage to maintain clear access for all users of the ground.

Vote For- 7

Abstain- 1

The clerk was instructed to obtain quotes for the work

## **12. RECREATION GROUND MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY CONCERNS**

**Members will consider proposed work for the boundaries and trees within the recreation ground.**

It was proposed by Cllr. M Wright and seconded by Cllr. C. Young to agree to the work being carried out for safety reasons.

A vote was taken, which was carried unanimously.

## **13. PLANNING**

No Planning applications received.

## **14. FINANCE**

a. Breakdown of expenditure/income since the last meeting.

No matters raised

b. Authorisation of Payments – Members will review the list of invoices for payment and identify two Councillors to authorise the payments online.

Payee	Details	Amount to be authorised
Marc Coleman	Grasscutting	£690.00
Quick Chill Ltd	Freezer Repair	£70.00
Andy Graphix Ltd	Carpark Sign	£342.00
Sandgate Printers	Newsletter	£300.00

c. Additional items requiring authorisation:

To consider approval for freezer repairs or the purchase of a new freezer for the kiosk.

Members agreed that the freezer should be replaced rather than repaired. However, it was noted that the current tenant has suggested a different freezer style, which would cost less than the current model.

It was agreed that £700.00 be set as the budget for replacing the equipment, and that the Clerk would be authorised to spend up to this amount without further reference to the Council.

## **15. PAVILION UPDATE- FRIENDS OF DYMCHURCH RECREATION GROUND CHARITY**

To receive an update on progress, if available

- The Bat Survey has been completed, and there are currently no objections provided that Bat Boxes are installed nearby.

- Still need to obtain a licence from Natural England, which will last for 6 months. This means we will need to start work within that period, or we risk having to repeat the surveys. The Charity needs to confirm what is considered "work started"
- The architect is obtaining quotes for demolition.

## **16. HIGHWAYS SAFETY UPDATE- CLLR. V. McCREEDY**

To receive an update and any proposals relating to Highways Safety

- Eastbridge Road will be receiving a 30mph Kent Highways Safety pack. A local farmer has agreed to have a banner placed on his boundary fence.
- Still awaiting update on crossing at Burmarsh Corner- This will be a crossing with a central reservation not controlled with lights.
- Still awaiting a date to carry out a site visit with the KCC Councillor- Peter Osborne.

## **17. SEAWATER BATHING QUALITY- CLLR. D. YOUNG**

To receive updates and any proposals related to Seawater Bathing Quality, the latest Seawater testing results will be provided at the meeting.

Members will also review the results of the Business Survey, which aims to investigate whether the water quality classification has impacted local businesses.

- Thanked fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their help and support in prompting him with advice and questions
- Reported that a business survey had been carried out with a good response, but not from all businesses.
- He was interviewed by Dominic King from Radio Kent about the recent seawater results and asked that the survey be sent to Dominic King.
- He also requested that the survey be sent to the local Seawater Quality group for their information.
- He informed members that the Seawater Quality results this year were better than in 2021, when the classification was "good". With this in mind, he is aware that Tony Vaughan MP is approaching the Environment Agency to obtain a "Step Change" classification.
- He was also keen to point out that there is more to Dymchurch than the beach.
- He is due to attend a further meeting with other interested parties on the 28<sup>th</sup> November and will report back to Council in December.
- Members raised concerns about chicken manure being used on fields and whether this was a factor- Cllr. Young indicated that no one has been able to confirm or deny this at this time, but he added that he believes it has to be a factor, as Dymchurch does not have a pumping station, and it is purely drainage from the marsh that enters the sea.

## **18. FLOODING CONCERNs – CLLR. L. FINCH**

To receive an update and any proposals relating to this subject, including Parish Council's response to the Section 19 Flood report

- Awaiting a meeting with the manager at New Beach Holiday Camp to discuss local flooding issues
- The updated section 19 is not on the KCC website, but the recent comments from the Parish Council have been added to the report.  
The clerk was instructed to obtain an updated copy.

**19. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE MEETINGS- PLEASE NOTE  
DECISIONS CANNOT BE MADE ON ITEMS INTRODUCED HERE**  
No matters received.

**20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 Dymchurch Parish Council Offices Orgarswick Avenue  
Dymchurch

**Please note the cut-off date for items to be included on next month's agenda is Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025.**

**Noted.**

**APPENDIX 1**

**Tony Hills, F&H DC member for the Romney Marsh Ward.**

**Dymchurch Report for November**

Matters I have been engaged with, Romney Marsh ward.

**Water Quality**

I attended the Kent Flood & Water Management Committee last Wednesday on behalf of F&H DC. We had presentations from the Environment Agency, Southern Water and Southeast Water. I'm hopeful that the Environment Agency will give Dymchurch and St Marys Bay beaches a 'satisfactory' if not good rating for next year.

At the meeting I asked Richard Penn (acting regional head of the EA) if he had early indications how our local beaches fared, he declined to comment...but I believe that this year's results are the best we have had in four years for Dymchurch.

We have a meeting of concerned water users and partners organised by Southern Water coming up later this month at the Varne Boat Club, Littlestone. Over the last

year these meetings have been effective in showing the problems our local beaches have.

In an email from the leader of the F&H DC Jim Martin last Friday has thanked Southern Water for their work in organising and running these meetings...but in the future he thought that F&H DC should take over the management and running of these meetings. I believe that this is a good move to make sure that we 'drill' down to understand the problems the Marsh has with water quality.

So, rest assured I will continue to press all the organisations involved to make sure the quality our local sea water is the best it can be.

## **Solar Farms**

This is not job done; the next round of consultations will be next year. We need to keep these issues front of mind, keeping pressure on our MP to support and fight for the Marsh against industrialising the farmland.

Yes, we need to generate power, but destroying what we have, is not the answer, I had a meeting last Thursday organised by the Nuclear Restoration Services to look at Dungeness A power station and what should it be replaced with. I suggest following my meeting with the water companies on the previous day telling me that we will face serious freshwater shortages in the not too distant future, that a small modular nuclear reactor powering a desalination plant would be a good option for the Marsh generating power, fresh water and jobs.

## **Local Government Reform**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month Jim Martin leader of F&H DC will send to government his recommendation for a new unitary council. I'm hoping for '3A' to be recommended this would consist of three unitary councils for Kent, in this area it would be Ashford, Folkestone & Hythe, Dover, Thanet and Canterbury. This would give us a strong coastal council of nearly 800,000 people for east Kent.

The government will consider the options, and we should hear by next spring what it intends to do.

*Tony Hills, F&H District councillor for Romney Marsh Ward. Home Telephone 01797 321246 Mobile 07860 295730*